

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A medical assembly, comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a lumen therethrough;

a first inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said first inflatable member being in fluid communication with a first fluid source;

a second inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said second inflatable member being in fluid communication with a second fluid source containing an acoustically transmissive material; and

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer for ultrasonically placing and monitoring the tubular member within the body.
2. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the distal section of said tubular member includes a beveled tip.
3. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the tubular member has a curved shape.
4. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, further comprising an opening disposed through the wall of the tubular member.

5. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 4, wherein said opening is located between the first and second inflatable members.

6. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, further comprising a ventilation hub connected to the proximal section of said tubular member, said ventilation hub being in fluid communication with the ventilation lumen and an external ventilation unit.

7. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the second inflatable member is coupled to the tubular member at a location distal to the first inflatable member.

8. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the first inflatable member is configured to radially expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.

9. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in an asymmetrical manner about the tubular member.

10. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.
11. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein the acoustically transmissive material comprises a balanced saline solution.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, further comprising an ultrasonic monitor capable of ultrasonically imaging the second inflatable member within the body.
14. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 13, wherein said ultrasonic monitor is adapted to ultrasonically image fluid flow within the second inflatable member using Doppler imaging.
15. (Withdrawn) The medical assembly of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is an endotracheal tube.
16. (Withdrawn) An endotracheal medical assembly, comprising:
a tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a ventilation lumen therethrough;

a first inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said first inflatable member being in fluid communication with a first fluid source;

a second inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said second inflatable member being in fluid communication with a second fluid source containing an acoustically transmissive material; and

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer for ultrasonically placing and monitoring the tubular member within the body.

17. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the distal section of said tubular member includes a beveled tip.

18. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the tubular member has a curved shape.

19. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, further comprising a Murphy eye disposed through the wall of the tubular member.

20. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 19, wherein said Murphy eye is located between the first and second inflatable members.

21. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, further comprising a ventilation hub connected to the proximal section of the tubular member,

said ventilation hub being in fluid communication with the ventilation lumen and an external ventilation unit.

22. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the second inflatable member is coupled to the tubular member at a location distal to the first inflatable member.

23. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the first inflatable member is configured to radially expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.

24. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in an asymmetrical manner about the tubular member.

25. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the second inflatable member is configured to expand in a symmetrical manner about the tubular member.

26. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, wherein the acoustically transmissive material comprises a balanced saline solution.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 16, further comprising an ultrasonic monitor capable of ultrasonically imaging the second inflatable member within the body.

29. (Withdrawn) The endotracheal medical assembly of claim 28, wherein said ultrasonic monitor is adapted to ultrasonically image fluid flow within the second inflatable member using Doppler imaging.

30. (Withdrawn) An endotracheal medical assembly, comprising:
a tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a ventilation lumen therethrough;

at least one inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member, said at least one inflatable member being in fluid communication with a fluid source containing an acoustically transmissive material; and

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam through the skin and into said at least one inflatable member.

31-48 (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A medical assembly, comprising:
a tubular member insertable within the body, the tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a lumen therethrough;

a ~~first at least one~~ inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member;

a second inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member and disposed distally of the first inflatable member;

a means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member;

wherein said means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member includes means for repeatedly inflating and deflating the second inflatable member;

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam into the body; and

ultrasonic imaging means for visualizing the tubular member within the body.

50. (Currently Amended) The medical assembly of claim 49, wherein said means for repeatedly inflating and deflating the second inflatable member inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member includes an actuator.

51. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 50, wherein said actuator is coupled to the proximal end of the tubular member.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 49, wherein said ultrasonic imaging means is configured to visualize the tubular member within the body using backscatter from said ultrasonic beam.

54. (Previously Presented) The medical assembly of claim 49, wherein said ultrasonic imaging means comprises an apparatus adapted to ultrasonically image the tubular member within the body using Doppler imaging.

55. (Currently Amended) A medical assembly, comprising:
a tubular member insertable within the body, the tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, a tube wall with an inner surface, and only a single lumen defined along the inner surface therethrough;
at least one inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member;
an actuator coupled to the proximal section of the tubular member, said actuator adapted to induce movement in the distal section of the tubular member;
at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam into the body; and
ultrasonic imaging means for visualizing the tubular member within the body.

56. (New) A medical assembly, comprising:
a tubular member insertable within the body, the tubular member having a tube wall, a proximal section, a distal section, and a lumen therethrough;
a first inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member;

a second inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member and disposed distally of the first inflatable member;

wherein the tube wall has an outer surface and wherein between the first inflatable member and the second inflatable member the outer surface of the tube wall is free of openings;

a means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member;

at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam into the body; and

ultrasonic imaging means for visualizing the tubular member within the body.

57. (New) The medical assembly of claim 56, wherein the means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member includes means for repeatedly inflating and deflating the second inflatable member.

58. (New) The medical assembly of claim 56, wherein the tube wall has an inner surface and wherein only a single lumen is defined along the inner surface.

59. (New) A medical assembly, comprising:

a tubular member insertable within the body, the tubular member having a proximal section, a distal section, and a lumen therethrough;

an inflatable member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member;

a distal member coupled to the distal section of the tubular member and disposed distally of the inflatable member;

a means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member;
wherein said means for inducing movement in the distal section of the tubular member includes means for repeatedly passing fluids into and out from the distal member;
at least one extracorporeal ultrasound transducer configured to direct an ultrasonic beam into the body; and
ultrasonic imaging means for visualizing the tubular member within the body.

60. (New) The medical assembly of claim 59, wherein the distal member is inflatable.

61. (New) The medical assembly of claim 60, wherein the means for repeatedly passing fluids into and out from the distal member includes means for repeatedly inflating and deflating the distal member.